

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2005/000173

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: G06F 3/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
DWPI, USPTO, PCT, IEEE, internet (user interface, tangible, RFID, orient, facet, dice, shield, etc.)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	R. J. K. Jacob et al, <i>A Tangible Interface for Organizing Information Using a Grid</i> Proc. ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, pp. 339-46, 2002	1-2, 4-7, 11, 16-18, 20
X	US 2001/0035815 A1 (FLETCHER et al), 1 November 2001 the whole document	1-2, 4-7, 11, 16-18, 20
X	US 6,167,353 A (PIERNOT et al), 26 December 2000 the whole document	1-2, 20
X	US 6,356,255 B1 (WEIL et al), 12 March 2002 the whole document	1-2, 20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P"	document member of the same patent family
"&"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

Date of the actual completion of the international search 29 March 2005	Date of mailing of the international search report 18 APR 2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer MATTHEW HOLLINGWORTH Telephone No : (02) 6283 2024

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,823,782 A (MARCUS et al), 20 October 1998 the whole document	1-2, 20
X	US 5,188,368 A (RYAN), 23 February 1993 the whole document	1-2, 20
X	B. Ullmer et al, <i>The metaDESK: Models and Prototypes for Tangible User Interfaces</i> Proc. ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology, pp. 223-32, 1997	1-2, 20
X	<i>GDT Projects</i> website, <i>DGT Electronic Chessboard</i> page, as archived December 2003 http://web.archive.org/web/20031207090754/www.dgtprojects.com/eboard.htm http://web.archive.org/web/20031206104544/www.dgtprojects.com/eboard_features.htm	1-2, 20
X	US 2002/0147042 A1 (YUONG et al), 10 October 2002 paragraph 64	9-10
X	JP 2002-320763 A (TOPPAN FORMS CO LTD), 5 November 2002 the whole document	9-10

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: III

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to from a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are five inventions:

1. Claims 1-8 and 11-21, directed to user interfaces. The detection of counters on a work surface is considered to be a first "special technical feature."
2. Claims 9-10, directed to an RFID counter. The use of two RFID tags separated by a magnetic shield is a second "special technical feature."

Since the abovementioned groups of claims do not share any technical features, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly, the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept.

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See extra sheet.

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member				
US	2001035815	US	6791452			
US	6167353	AU	19994/99	AU	36504/97	AU
		CA	2314985	EP	0842490	EP
		US	5953686	US	6047249	US
		US	2002126085	WO	9706479	WO
		WO	9931569			
US	6356255	US	6556184	US	2002033801	US
US	5823782	US	6464503	US	6726485	US
		US	6739874	US	6755655	US
		US	2003027108	US	2003027109	US
		US	2003031988	US	2003148249	US
		US	2004063078	US	2004063079	US
		US	2004121293	US	2004142308	US
		US	2004142310	US	2004142311	US
		US	2004146844	US	2004214143	US
		US	2004219495			
US	5188368	AU	66301/90	EP	0360624	WO
US	2002147042	NONE				
JP	2002320763	NONE				

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

END OF ANNEX